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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1969

# TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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PHILIP J. McNIFF

*Director, and Librarian*

## Annual Report for 1969

### *To the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library:*

As Director, and Librarian, I have the honor to submit my report for the year January 1 to December 31, 1969.

This year saw considerable progress made in the long-range building program. The completion of two new branch libraries, one in the Fields Corner section and the other in Brighton, eliminated the two oldest and most unsatisfactory branch library installations.

The new Brighton Branch was designed by Norman C. Fletcher of The Architects Collaborative of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Michael Prodanou was the Associate Designer. The building, which provides 17,000 square feet of service space, was constructed by Michael Racioppi, Inc., of Boston, and the landscaping was done by Wyman Nurseries.

Multileveled, it provides shelving for 80,000 volumes and was designed to adapt itself to the gentle contours of the site. The architects selected poured concrete as the exterior fabric of the building and used large windows plus two tall, periscope-like fins to bring in natural light. The interior follows a modified butterfly pattern. A modern, serviceable entrance is in the center, with a Children's Room in one wing, the Adult/Young Adult quarters in the second wing, and the meeting room and work areas in the third. The building is completely air-conditioned. Daylight fluorescent light supplements the natural light, and all reading areas are carpeted.

The Fields Corner Branch, designed by Holmes & Edwards, Inc., of Boston, and constructed by D. Antonellis, Inc., of Waltham, was opened on December 8. This neighborhood branch occupies some 8,530 square feet, houses over 24,000 volumes, and provides seating for over 100 readers. The building uses a one-story, slab-on-grade technique, with insulated masonry walls on steel frames. Its complete electric heating and air-conditioning installation is a first for our branch libraries. The reading areas are carpeted, and lighting is provided by indirect fluorescent lights.

The year 1969 also saw considerable progress on new branch libraries for Charlestown and Grove Hall. These buildings, replacing older facilities, are expected to be completed in 1970. The restudy and redesign of the South End Branch were pushed forward, and occupancy is scheduled for 1971.

A major event in the history of the Library took place on April 25, 1969, when the Trustees of the Library voted to award a contract to Vappi & Company, Inc., of Cambridge for the construction of the Addition to the Central Library building. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place on June 6 and the long-sought Addition was under way. The need for this substantial enlargement of the Central Library building is indicated (1) by the growth of the collections from 628,297 volumes in 1895 when the present McKim, Mead & White building was opened to some 2,500,000 volumes today; (2) by the substantial increase in use with more than 1,000,000 persons a year entering the Library; and (3) by the steadily increasing role of the Library as a reference and information center. Philip Johnson is the principal architect for the Addition and has selected Architects Design Group, Inc., to be his associates in a joint venture.

The new structure will contain some 480,000 square feet on ten levels. Its height and roof line will conform to the existing library, and its exterior will be faced with Milford pink granite taken from the same quarry which furnished the granite in the present building. The main entrance will be from Boylston Street and will directly serve the four public floors. At the year's end work on the foundation was proceeding on schedule.

### **General Library Services**

This division reports that the calendar year 1969 was an uneasy one in which the social stresses of the times were strongly reflected in General Library Services activities. Among the bibliographical contributions of the division were:

1. The preparation of a 152-page multimedia guide on materials available for work with young people on understanding the people, the institutions, the activities that make up the problems and pleasures of city living. This pioneer bibliography entitled "What Is a City?"

was funded by a federal Library Services and Construction Act Title I grant and edited by Miss Rose Moora-chian, Readers Advisor for Young Adults. The second part of the project, conceived by Miss M. Jane Manthorne, the Library's Coordinator of Young Adult Services, concerned itself with the views of young people on what the city means to them. Their responses in poetry and prose, and in paintings, were judged by a distinguished panel, and selections chosen were published in a companion volume entitled "What Is a City? Young People Reply." The judges were Miss Arlene Hope, Library Services Program Officer, Region I, United States Office of Education; Mr. David McCord, author, poet, and artist; Mrs. Ruth Hill Viguers, children's librarian, author, teacher, and former editor of "The Horn Book Magazine"; and Mr. John Wilson, artist, illustrator, and teacher.

2. A timely adult reading list on "Cities, Cities, Cities," which received wide acceptance and fulfilled a demonstrated need.

3. The revised list, "Turned On," dealing with books and films on drugs, which was addressed to both the young reader and the professional working on the problem.

A start was made on strengthening the collections of the General Library. A fivefold increase in the number of volumes for open shelf access has been programmed for the new building. A substantial increase in the numbers of large-print books — for people with limited vision — and of foreign language titles resulted from federal funds made available through the Massachusetts Bureau of Library Extension and the Board of Library Commissioners.

Circulation of materials for home use decreased. However, this is but one criterion of library use, and many aspects of library service are not reflected in a count of circulation. In the audio-visual area some 873,376 people were in attendance at the showing of 22,156 films. The children's staff supplemented normal reading room and reference services as follows:

Visits to classrooms . . . . .	1,505
Class visits to the library . . . . .	350
Story hours . . . . .	398
Pre-school story hours . . . . .	550
Film showings . . . . .	319

More than 400 other programs, which drew an estimated 57,000 youngsters, included puppet and creative drama activities, original writing clubs, and summer reading clubs.

In the area of service to adults there were twelve Never Too Late groups functioning in the branches. Branch library activities included Friends of the Library meetings, Parents Discussion Groups, film programs, and lectures. The Central Library's Never Too Late series had a weekly attendance ranging from 120 to 240 interested, appreciative, critical people.

The Library again cosponsored with the State Bureau of Library Extension the Boston *Herald Traveler* Children's Book Fair. Together with other libraries in the Eastern Region and using the creative work which students had contributed to the "What Is a City?" project, the Library made a major contribution to the Boston *Globe* Book Festival. Under the sponsorship of the Young Adults Services, a film scenario was written, filmed, and released by youngsters associated with the East Boston Branch Library. Cooperation with tutorial programs and sponsorship of TV high school equivalency programs in four branch libraries are further examples of the service programs provided.

### Research Library Services

The year under review was one of sustained pressure — pressure from increasing demands and pressure from diminishing space. The scope of collection coverage was broadened especially in the field of foreign acquisitions. With the assistance of federal and state funds the reference resources were substantially improved. Many back files of important journals and monographic series were acquired, and from the secondhand market and reprint publishers the Library has added significantly to its growing collection of Africana and Afro-American holdings. The microfilm preservation program has continued apace. In 1969 forty-one local newspapers were filmed. Of these fifteen represented ethnic or foreign language papers, the other twenty-six being neighborhood community papers. The Sound Archive continues to grow through gifts and purchases.

Further consolidation of serial services took place within the year, and a decision was reached to use the Superintendent of Documents classification scheme for United States Government documents. A compilation of a Boston and Massachusetts public affairs index was started, and the Fine Arts staff undertook to resurrect its Boston Architecture Index.

At the request of Mrs. Serge Koussevitzky, a detailed inventory listing of the scores, books, recordings, portraits, correspondence, personal papers, and clippings belonging to her late husband was prepared by Mrs. Natalie Breed. This collection, which has been donated to the Library by Mrs. Koussevitzky, is an important addition to our music resources. Under the direction of the Keeper of Rare Books and Manuscripts, Mrs. C. M. Buerger prepared a preliminary listing of the papers presented to the Library by Judge Elijah Adlow. Other special projects included a pilot study on the handling of special gift collections of official and personal papers and the processing of a special collection of nineteenth-century theological pamphlets.

Among the many gifts received during the year were a collection of 1,400 books on Asia and the social sciences from the library of Professor John Pelzel of Harvard University; some nineteenth-century children's books from Mr. Sinclair Hamilton; a 1488 bible in the Bohemian language from Mr. Israel Perlstein; the library of Sara Ware Bassett, the gift of Mr. Frederick B. Taylor; the library of Eliot Channing Clarke from Mrs. Louis F. Perry; documents and papers relating to the Immigration Restriction League from Mr. Henry DeCourcy Ward.

A trust fund was established to purchase books for the Kirstein Business Branch with a bequest of \$7,864 from the estate of Mr. F. G. Kane. A bequest of \$43,608.87 received from the estate of David James established the David James Print Fund.

Exhibits, as always, played an important role in the cultural contributions of the Library. Highlighting this year's program was the Library's salute to its good neighbor, the Old South Church, on its three hundredth anniversary. The Trustees held a reception in the courtyard on June 17 for the clergy, deacons, members, and friends

of the Old South Church to mark the opening of an exhibition of the New England Library of the Old South Church. The Prince Library, as it is popularly called, was collected by the Reverend Thomas Prince, Minister of the Old South Church from 1718 to 1758.

Among the special exhibitions in the Sargent Gallery were "Nineteenth-Century Concert Life in Boston"; "Notable Recent Additions to the Library's Collections"; "Dartmouth College: A Bicentennial Exhibition"; "Pirates and Privateers"; and "Five Centuries of Fine Bindings."

The display cases on the first and second floors featured a wide variety of exhibits. The Science Reference staff arranged an exhibit for the 136th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the opening of the New Copley Square was signaled by a "Copley Square" exhibition featuring photos, prints, watercolors, past and present; other programs ranged from "Black Inventors in American History" organized for Negro History Week to a Harrison Gray Otis exhibition on the occasion of the publication by Houghton Mifflin of Samuel Eliot Morison's biography of Mr. Otis and a salute to "Polish Music and Polish Musicians on the American Scene" cosponsored by the Massachusetts Federation of Polish Women's Clubs. The arts were represented by watercolors, prints and drawings on the "Boston Scene" by Polly Thayer (Mrs. Donald Starr) and by a ceramics collection of Mme. Bonanou-Papayanaki of Athens which traced the history of pottery from 3000 B.C. to the present.

An exhibition entitled "Boston Town and City" was mounted in the Wiggin Gallery to celebrate the opening of the new Boston City Hall. "Masterworks of Lithography from the Albert H. Wiggin Collection" included works of Gericault Daumier, Redon, Toulouse-Lautrec, Shannon, and Bellows, and the exhibition of Arthur Polonsky's drawings continued the Library's program of featuring local artists. "Philipon's Printmakers" was organized by Weston Naef of Brown University, this year's visiting scholar. The exhibition takes its name from Charles Philipon, printmaker, publisher, and leader of the opposition to King Louis-Philippe.

### **Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System**

Interlibrary loan and film loans increased over the previous year, and expanded teletype service was most useful in reference as well as loan services. Advisory service and workshops were provided by the regional staff, and bookmobile service to communities under 25,000 population in the metropolitan area was begun. The operations of the two extension centers in North Reading and Fall River, formerly administered by the Bureau of Library Extension, are coordinated through the regional bookmobile office in the Charlestown Service Building.

### **Professional Activities**

The staff made many contributions to the local, state, and national library organizations and was represented at meetings of a number of learned societies. Mr. Macy Margolis attended a conference on "New Dimensions in Acquisitions" held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Library Association; Mr. B. Joseph O'Neil represented the Library at the Annual Conference of the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago — the topic of the conference was "Deterioration and Preservation of Library Materials"; Mrs. Beryl Robinson participated in Northeastern University's Writers Conference; and Mr. John Alden was invited to take part in a conference on Caribbean resources held at the College of the Virgin Islands.

Miss M. Jane Manthorne addressed the Cape Cod Branch of the NAACP on "Black Americans: Many Voices, Many Messages"; Mrs. Laura Reyes spoke to the Women's National Book Association on the Library's Spanish Center; Mr. Sinclair Hitchings gave the opening lecture in the 1969 Adams National Historic Site Lecture Series — his topic was "Adams Historic Maps"; at the Association of College and Research Libraries Rare Books Section meeting Mr. John Alden read a paper on Thomas Prince and his library; Mr. Euclid Peltier moderated a panel on "Films for and by Children" for the Educational Film Library Association.

The many programs and services of the Library could not be carried out without the outstanding contributions

made by the staff members in the Resources and Processing Division, the Business Office, and the Buildings Department. The cooperation of the entire staff has been a major factor in the maintenance of library service under trying space limitations. I wish to express appreciation to the members of the Board of Trustees for their leadership and support.

PHILIP J. McNIFF,  
*Director, and Librarian.*

Table 1. Circulation  
BOOK CIRCULATION

	1968	1969
Central Library . . . . .	535,492	520,330
Kirstein Business Branch . . . . .	8,512	8,698
Adams Street . . . . .	124,571	111,970
Allston . . . . .	48,505	44,740
Bookmobile Service . . . . .	351,577	320,481
Brighton . . . . .	55,929	73,684
Charlestown . . . . .	54,980	48,538
Codman Square . . . . .	102,541	83,908
Connolly . . . . .	58,757	48,206
East Boston . . . . .	50,050	35,423
Egleston Square . . . . .	57,929	43,287
Faneuil . . . . .	50,228	46,839
Fields Corner (Dorchester) . . . . .	64,034	57,551
Hyde Park . . . . .	119,648	111,831
Jamaica Plain . . . . .	74,863	68,641
Lower Mills . . . . .	63,011	55,204
Mattapan . . . . .	91,246	74,076
Memorial . . . . .	19,522	16,497
Memorial Bookmobile . . . . .	13,893	14,582
Mt. Bowdoin . . . . .	28,866	21,375
Mt. Pleasant . . . . .	25,830	25,690
North End . . . . .	56,151	35,651
Orient Heights . . . . .	37,664	32,581
Parker Hill . . . . .	40,119	39,480
Roslindale . . . . .	173,453	153,158
South Boston . . . . .	94,310	86,260
South End . . . . .	34,126	28,453
Uphams Corner . . . . .	61,882	54,561
Washington Village . . . . .	53,211	43,749
West End . . . . .	58,290	62,416
West Roxbury . . . . .	173,847	154,763
Hospital Library Service . . . . .	29,585	29,042
Biblioteca Latina . . . . .	1,659	5,217
Total, Branch Libraries . . . . .	2,270,277	2,027,854
Total, Entire Library . . . . .	2,814,281	2,556,882

## NONBOOK CIRCULATION

	1968	1969
Film and filmstrips . . . . .	18,954	22,156
Recordings . . . . .	54,505	52,952
Pictures . . . . .	22,172	15,570
Totals . . . . .	95,631	90,678

## VOLUMES SENT ON INTERLIBRARY LOAN

	1968	1969
Interlibrary Loans . . . . .	9,584	10,780

Table 2. Growth of the Library

## BOOKS

	1968	1969
General Library:		
Volumes Added . . . . .	116,426	88,653
Volumes Withdrawn . . . . .	61,735	69,379
Total on Hand December 31 . . . . .	856,787	876,061
Research Library:		
Volumes Added . . . . .	58,197	107,967
Volumes Withdrawn . . . . .	5,111	918
Total on Hand December 31 . . . . .	1,670,713	1,777,732
Total Book Stock . . . . .	2,527,518	2,653,793

## NONBOOK MATERIALS

	1968	1969
Films . . . . .	2,355	2,692
Filmstrips . . . . .	113	132
Recordings . . . . .	21,389	19,319
Lantern Slides . . . . .	14,884	14,884
Negatives . . . . .	2,130	2,130
Pictures . . . . .	407,188	412,448
Postcards . . . . .	133,805	133,805
Prints and Drawings . . . . .	39,836	49,500
Projected Books . . . . .	178	178
Microcards . . . . .	11,283	11,283
Microfiche (sheets) . . . . .	38,991	71,706
Microfilms (reels) . . . . .	25,664	29,546
Microprint (boxes) . . . . .	2,428	2,718

Table 3. Cataloging Statistics

	1968	1969
Volumes Processed . . . . .	235,236	233,073
New Titles Cataloged . . . . .	50,209	61,080
Original Cataloging . . . . .	7,347	6,262
LC Cataloging . . . . .	41,182	53,669
Rare Book Cataloging . . . . .	1,680	1,149
Films . . . . .	568	337
Recordings . . . . .	3,978	6,034

Table 4. Binding

	1968	1969
Volumes Bound . . . . .	40,823	49,319

Table 5. Library Expenditures

	1968	1969
Salaries and Wages:		
City Appropriation . . . . .	\$3,714,147 13	\$4,093,397 35
Eastern Regional Public Library System . . . . .	141,112 78	190,485 74
Trust Funds Income . . . . .	2,916 65	2,353 79
Total . . . . .	\$3,861,506 56	\$4,286,236 88
Books and Other Library Materials:		
City Appropriation . . . . .	\$601,405 00	\$657,199 52
Eastern Regional Public Library System . . . . .	615,236 14	530,273 86
Trust Funds Income . . . . .	74,214 27	114,153 35
Gifts for Current Use . . . . .	15,657 35	10,676 60
Library Services and Construction Act Book Credits	313,002 30	361,967 35
Total . . . . .	\$1,649,515 06	\$1,674,270 68
All Other Expenses:		
City Appropriation . . . . .	\$597,104 75	\$650,117 40
Eastern Regional Public Library System . . . . .	109,097 75	100,435 10
Trust Funds Income . . . . .	15,428 02	12,539 14
Library Services and Construction Act Book Credits	11,819 85	4,119 72
Total . . . . .	\$733,450 37	\$767,211 36
GRAND TOTAL . . . . .	\$6,244,471 99	\$6,727,718 92

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